

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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May 12, 2003

REVISED

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair

Supervisor Gloria Molina Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen

Chief Administrative Officer

## MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 408 (STEINBERG) RELATED TO PERMANENCY FOR OLDER FOSTER YOUTH (ITEM NO. 12, AGENDA OF MAY 13, 2003)

This memo is a revised version of Item No. 12 on the Agenda of May 13, 2003. The revision is "highlighted" at the top of page 2.

Item Number 12 on the May 13, 2003 agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich to send a five-signature letter to Governor Davis, Assemblyman Steinberg and the State Legislature urging passage of AB 408, which seeks to ensure that no child be emancipated from the foster care system without a connection to a committed and caring adult. This Item was continued for two weeks at the April 29, 2003 Board meeting.

AB 408 is a comprehensive bill that makes a number of changes to existing law intended to enhance the quality of life for foster youth. Although the intent of AB 408 is positive, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) recommends a position of **support if amended**, and we concur. DCFS and my office are concerned about the additional workload responsibilities included in the bill without funding to defray costs, and County Counsel, DCFS and my office have concerns regarding the potential liability associated with one of the bill's provisions. Therefore, DCFS recommends that AB 408 be amended to: 1) delete the bill language that would "prohibit

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any State regulation or policy from preventing or creating barriers to participation in child enrichment activities", and 2) include an appropriation sufficient to cover the additional workload costs. In addition, we recommend that AB 408 also be amended to provide immunity for foster parents, the County, and DCFS staff if the child is injured during an activity under the prudent parent standard.

On April 29, 2003, AB 408 passed the Assembly Human Services Committee with a technical amendment by a vote of 5–0. It was then referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee where it is set for hearing on May 14, 2003. Our April 28, 2003 memo regarding AB 408 is attached.

DEJ:GK MAL:EW:ib

## Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services